



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Sivan/ Tamuz 5775

June 2015

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Some Lessons I've learned as CDT President

by Allison Hausman, President



I THOUGHT I would take my last CDT column to share what I've learned by being CDT President for these past two years. Many of you have thanked me for my service and recognized that it is a significant time commitment. This is true. What is also true, at least in my experience, is that this undeniable investment of extra time and emotional energy has been an enormous opportunity for personal growth. I have learned so much about myself, and have gained an even deeper appreciation for the blessings of our community.

CONTRIBUTING TO BUILDING A "SANCTUARY"

When I first joined the board about 6 years ago, I knew that CDT was special; I also knew that I cared about being Jewish, and I figured I could find a way to contribute. I started as co-chair of communications with an inspiring partner, Susan Silberberg. In many ways I was drawing on my usual skills as a communications professional, but it was different. I was contributing to our spiritual community—a place where we grow, celebrate and grieve together, and recognize our place in the big (actually infinite) picture. I found it a truly meaningful way to spend my time.



CDT Hikes have gone on several hikes so far.

From there, I started to see the beauty and feel the excitement that happens when the community that you are contributing to feels strong. I hope you all have felt moments where the power of our strong community is palpable. Whether it's a Shabbat service, delivering or receiving a chesed meal, attending a shiva, or something else, CDT offers moments where we step outside of our daily routines and come together to lend support to one another or to celebrate life together.

BECOMING A LEADER AT CDT

Within the first year of being on the board, one thing I realized was that the only obstacle to taking on leadership was myself. There was plenty of work that needed to be done, I just needed to identify it and start contributing. Still, truly feeling ready and entitled to lead CDT took time, but I think it was this process that taught me the most about myself. It is a very different mindset; one that recognizes that we are all welcome to find ways that work for us to participate—sometimes in surprising ways—and that each of us stepping up to take on those roles is what makes the community strong. On the flip side, by actively stepping up, our connection to each other is strengthened.

While participation can feel burdensome at times, I can say that for me, the effort always turns out to be gratifying. I also find it gratifying that, having taken on this leadership role, my feeling of comfort at CDT has totally transformed. I know so many more people and appreciate what they have to offer, and that makes CDT truly feel like a home. Now that's compensation for my time and effort!

I was asked to become CDT President just as I was turning 50. I was (and am) still working full-time, but two out of three of my daughters were out of the house. I felt like I was entering a new stage of my life. Putting myself out there, way outside my comfort zone, but in a supportive and appreciative community, was a way to grow. And it worked. My nerves delivering announcements have subsided. I've learned that I can run a meeting and set a board's agenda for the year. I've seen many goals met, and I've learned that it's ok when we don't quite get there. I'm a lot less afraid to just do my best and to trust others to do theirs, and this gives me new freedom to try anything.

BEING JEWISH

Finally, being President of the CDT Board has increased my Jewish practice, and I have found that more enjoyable than I would have imagined. I have gone to services almost every week, which makes a huge difference in my knowledge of the service, my Hebrew reading, and my overall comfort level—and these in turn have opened the door to a much more rewarding spiritual experience. After years of coming to services sporadically, and not really feeling like I belonged, I now feel like I am getting it.

None of this growth would have happened without the incredible CDT board members, our past presidents, and our administrative staff. I am grateful to awesome Rabbi Toba, who encouraged me to try, supported me along the way, and makes me very proud to be part of the congregation. I also want to acknowledge the behind the scenes contribution of my husband, Ezra. He is supportive at all times, an extraordinary thought partner and editor, and he usually came to services with me, making all of my effort a little easier and much more fun. Finally, I am grateful to our community—you—who gave me the opportunity to try this and allowed me to make mistakes and do my best.

Rabbinic Liaison

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between our rabbi and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Toba, they may at times feel more comfortable talking to the Rabbinic Liaison committee. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern, contact Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbinic Liaison Chair at cbsrome@comcast.net.

CDT

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members.

Board

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Staff

Education Director: Annette Lawson

Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman

Administrative Assistant: Shaena Grossman

Executive Committee:

President: Allison Hausman

First Vice President: Jen Kaplan

VP Finance: Cliff Cohen

VP Membership: Melanie Adler

VP Education: Lisa Schneier

VP Leadership: Ora Grodsky

Secretary: David Lobron

Board Members-at-Large:

Vilunya Diskin, Roy Edelstein, Mark Farber, Linda Hsu, Jessica Keimowitz, Lissy Medvedow and Madeline Steinberg

Off-Board Chairs

Children's Education: Erica Streit-Kaplan

Chesed: Jenny Sartori and Susan Nitkin

Nediv Lev: Peter Katz

Newsletter: Danny Shain

Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Space: Noam Shore

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

Website: Dan Halbert

Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org by the 15th of the month for the following month's issue.

Volunteer Staff: Danny Shain (chair), Josette Akresh-Gonzales, John Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer.

Shabbat

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Friday June 5

6:00 pm, candle lighting and dinner; 6:45 pm, service

All are welcome to this fun, musical erev Shabbat experience! We begin with candle lighting and Kiddush at 6pm, followed by a potluck vegetarian dinner (please bring a veggie/dairy/fish main dish or salad, enough for 15-20 people), followed by services at 6:45pm. Please note – there will be no all-ages service in July, we'll be back in August!

PRIDE SHABBAT

Saturday, June 13

As Boston celebrates GLBT Pride, we'll add our voices from West Newton! We'll lift up the wonderful diversity of our families, our gender identities, our ways of expressing our love during Torah study and services. Come join us for:

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

8:45am, Library

Join Rabbi Toba for an exploration of Shelach Lecha, the famous episode of the spies, from a Queer perspective! Bring your own caffeinated beverage.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

9:45am

We'll celebrate Pride weekend with some special readings and Torah discussion and aliyot to the Torah. In addition, we will be celebrating a few more of our high school seniors on the occasion of their graduation!

TOT SHABBAT

10:45am-noon

Families with children aged 0-5 are welcome at this monthly celebration of Shab-

bat with songs, stories, and more! This is the final Tot Shabbat of the year, so come celebrate with us!

SUNSET POTLUCK AND HAVDALLAH ON THE WATER

Saturday, June 13, 2015, 6-9pm

at the Fisher-Gomberg home, Auburndale

CDT'ers are welcome to come by as early as 6pm for a vegetarian potluck Havdallah dinner and some casual canoeing and kayaking on the Charles River. Around 8:30pm, we'll all paddle onto the river with our Havdallah candles and spices for a very special Havdallah service on the water. In case of rain, dinner and Havdallah will be indoors.

RSVP's are requested so that we can make sure we have enough boats and candles (dfgomberg@gmail.com). If you happen to have a canoe or kayak, or a Havdallah candle and/or spices, it would be great if you would bring them, but it's fine to just come with a vegetarian dinner contribution. The Gombergs will provide drinks and desserts (and boats, paddles, and life jackets!) All ages welcome.

If you'd rather just watch from the shore, you can join the photography crew or the unofficial rescue crew!

BAR MITZVAH OF ELAN KATZ

Saturday, June 6

We are pleased to announce that on June 6, our son, Elan Katz will be called to the Torah as bar mitzvah. Elan is a 7th grade student at the Edward R. Devotion school in Brookline, MA —where he has been for almost 10 years—starting in the preschool program when he was 3. Elan has lots of boisterous energy, which we divert into skiing, competitive swimming, and soccer. He also loves music and plays the saxophone in the town jazz band. For his community service project Elan decided to support the Massachusetts Special Olympics. He ran

in their 5K Jolly Jaunt in December and raised over \$1,000. He also volunteered to support Special Olympic athletes in bowling, swimming, and skiing competitions. We invite you to celebrate with us at a kiddush luncheon following services.

—*Pamela and Steven Katz*

BAR MITZVAH OF BENJAMIN HARRIS REIDER

Saturday, June 20

Please join us as our son Benjamin is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Ben is a seventh grader at F.A. Day Middle School, in Newton. Ben enjoys sports (soccer, tennis) and playing the saxophone. We invite you to join us downstairs for a kiddush lunch immediately following the service.

—*Gail Harris and David Reider*

IN THE SANCTUARY

by Allison Hausman

Our very own **Vivienne Shein** has created and hung photo collages, including her own photos of the congregation, which are now in our exhibit space of the sanctuary. They will be part of the space for the times when we don't have other exhibits. They are a collection of the many photos she's taken over the past few years showing our community in action.

I am so appreciative that Viv saw the opportunity to fill that space in a way that we will all enjoy, and chose to take the time to make her vision come true. Thanks as well go to her husband, Norman, who helped her put the display together and hang them.

Please come and see the photos and feel free to connect with Viv with comments and appreciation (vivshein@gmail.com)!

UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, ALL SHABBAT PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT THE DORSHEI TZEDEK PRAYER SPACE: 60 HIGHLAND STREET IN THE SECOND CHURCH OF NEWTON, WEST NEWTON. SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES ARE HELD WEEKLY, STARTING AT 9:45 AM. FREE CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE DURING SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN ROOM 112. FOR THE COMFORT AND HEALTH OF OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS, WE ASK EVERYONE ATTENDING OUR SERVICES TO AVOID WEARING FRAGRANCES (PERFUME, COLOGNE, HAIR AND BODY SPRAYS).

CDT Events

CDT UNDERSTANDING RACE

“Race: The Power of Illusion (part 3),” film and discussion

Thursday, June 4, 7:00-9:00 pm

In response to the enthusiasm for the March 7th Waking Up White book discussion and conversation, the CDT Understanding Race planning group will host the film “Race: The Power of Illusion (part 3)”. A discussion will follow the film. Prior to the event, participants are encouraged to read “White America’s Racial Illiteracy: Why our national conversation is poisoned from the start,” available on the web at salon.com.

CDT MEMBERS’ MEETING

Sunday, June 7, 5:30pm pizza dinner, 6:15pm meeting

Child care provided

All CDT households are encouraged to send at least one member to this final Members Meeting of the year. We have important business to attend to, including passing a budget for the coming year, electing a new Board slate, affirming the Core Values that we have been developing this year, and showing our appreciation to Board members who are stepping down. In addition, we will be thanking members of the Director of Congregational Learning Search Committee, and making a special show of appreciation to Dan Halbert, for the myriad ways he has supported our community over the past two decades.

CDT is co-sponsoring the event below. Many of you had the opportunity to hear Ali this past Sukkot in our sanctuary; he is a transformational speaker. He will be speaking with one of the Jewish leaders of this new organization, an Orthodox rabbi who lives in the settlement of Efrat and who, along with Ali, is working to build a constituency for nonviolence, reconciliation, justice and peace.

PAINFUL HOPE WITH ALI ABU AWWAD AND RABBI HANAN SCHLESINGER

Sunday, June 14, 7-9pm

Temple Israel, Boston

How do we move beyond the cycle of violence that engulfs Israelis and Palestinians? The Roots project is a new effort, based in the Gush Etzion area of the West Bank, to bring together Israelis and Palestinians who, despite living next to each other, are separated by walls of fear— not just fear of each other, but even of the price of peace. We are honored and excited to welcome to Boston two of the leaders of Roots, Ali Abu Awwad and Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, who will present their gut-wrenching personal narratives that brought them to discover the humanity and the legitimacy of the ‘other’, and will discuss how they are working to move their communities past suspicion, fear, and violence, and towards a positive solution of the conflict.

THE CASE FOR “SISTERHOOD” AT CDT

By Margo Michaels, chair of Rosh Chodesh planning

I remember the Temple Sisterhood of my youth--the ladies, some wearing brooches indicating how much they gave to the local Federation, handing me my white siddur after my Friday night Bat Mitzvah in 1980. Is there a sisterhood at CDT? Should there be? On both accounts, I say yes!

Since the early 2000’s, a women’s Rosh Chodesh group has been meeting at least every other month at CDT. But over the last few years interest has dwindled, and we need to decide as a congregation whether it is worth continuing. I’d like to share some thoughts about why I think we need to continue this group.

In the 1990s, I was a member of a DC-based Rosh Chodesh group which met monthly at women’s homes. Made up of about 15 women, we were old and young, straight and queer, observant and atheist, knowledgeable and curious, traditional and those seeking new rituals to connect them to Judaism. I still remember many of the

activities we explored together—conducting maariv on a rooftop in Adams Morgan, spending Shabbat together in the country, conducting a women’s seder and pondering the role of the orange on the Seder plate. We set guidelines together outlining the kind of ritual and learning we would participate in, and each of us took turns leading.

Is there a space for this at CDT? We are a community of creative, curious and spiritual people, with at least half of us women. We are all busy with various life responsibilities, and sometimes even committing to come to come to shul regularly seems a chore. Yet I am personally craving space beyond the traditional synagogue setting in which I can explore my own role in Judaism as a feminist. Surely I am not the only one who feels this way. But to make Rosh Chodesh group come alive again, we need to find a committed group of women who would be willing to join a steady monthly group.

If you are interested in exploring this group with us, please come to a Rosh Chodesh “Re-Creation” meeting, to coincide with the month of Elul. We will gather on Sunday August 16 at 7:30 pm. If you have any questions, please email me at margoimichaels@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing many women there!

CDT MEN’S SOFTBALL TEAM STARTS THEIR SEASON

by Elliot Pittel, Team Captain

DORSHEI TZEDEK SOFTBALL

The Dorshei Tzedek Men’s Softball Team, marking its 9th year in the Men’s Shul Softball League, has three games in June on June 7, 14 and 21st. The spring is the perfect time to take in a game and cheer on our team.

For more information about upcoming games, including locations, you can find a full schedule at: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/softball-team>. Go Tzedekmen!

Nediv Lev

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, including contributions to the General Fund or to targeted funds. The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program), and, most important, to help out congregants in need. The Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund provides scholarships for teachers in the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School to receive professional development and training. Jill was one of the founders of our school and one of its first teachers; this fund allows her love of Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Annie Spanel

Jamie Tessler—*In memory of my mother, Eleann F. Tessler*
Janelle Winston

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

SCHOOL FUND

RETREAT FUND

Liz Carver and Bryn Austin
Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried
Rachel and Chad Pytel
Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen
Vilunya Diskin
Miranda Phillips and Robert Kleinberg

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND

Reconstructionist News

CAMP JRF

JRF Family Camp is happening on August 19-23, 2015 in South Sterling, PA and the application and information is already up on their website (<http://campjrf.org/parents/family-camp/>). The time to sign up is now!

HEVREH: A COMMUNITY OF ADULT JEWISH LEARNERS!

July 15-19

Capital Camps, Waynesboro, PA

Hevreh is an opportunity:

- to study with master teachers of Judaica
- to reflect and rejuvenate
- to pray, sing and dance
- to reconnect with friends and make new ones
- to encounter nature
- to celebrate Shabbat.

Hevreh is sponsored by TriBraining, Inc., a not-for-profit educational foundation, in cooperation with the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities/Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Staying in the new retreat center at Capital Camps in Waynesboro, PA, participants will have access to state of the art accommodations and conference facilities located on a beautiful site with walking trails and many other extras. There will be opportunities for intensive study with RRC faculty members Rabbi Jacob Staub, Ph.D., Elsie Stern, Ph.D., Rabbi David Teutsch, Ph.D., and other Jewish scholars and artists.

Spaces are limited, so register now for this amazing opportunity. The deadline for early registration rates has been extended for members of Reconstructionist communities, so be sure to register soon if you plan to attend!

Inclusion Committee

SHARING STORIES AND IDEAS FOR INCLUDING DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PEOPLE INTO THE FOLDS OF OUR CONGREGATION

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SOME SPECIAL SHABBAT GUESTS

By Becca and Nuriel Gutman

My son, Nuriel, and I were in for a surprise when we went to Erev Shabbat services in April. When we arrived at shul there were already 20 people in the room downstairs ready for the potluck meal – most of whom I did not recognize. We were joined by K'Sharim, a group of Jewish adults with disabilities from the greater Boston area.

While it is sometimes uncomfortable to be in a room with people we don't know and who might look or act a little different from us, this group was very friendly and ready to help. At dinner we sat with a man named Steve whom we recognized from a similar Erev Shabbat service and dinner last year. Steve is great with kids and engaged Nuriel in conversation.

After a particularly rousing service with singing and instrumentation, Nuriel turned to me and said something along the lines of: "Mama – I'm glad we made a new friend tonight. Sometimes people look scary or act differently but if you get to know them they're actually really fun and nice to be around. I'm glad Steve is our friend."

And THAT is why I hope you will all join us next year at the CDT Erev Shabbat dinner when we are joined by K'Sharim and why I hope our community continues to work on creating a welcoming community for all.

Community

AN APPRECIATION

As our CDT Religious School year comes to a close, we want to express deepest thanks and appreciation to Annette Lawson, who has served as our Education Director for the past 6 years. Over those years, our educational program has grown to include both a preschool component (Nitzanim) and a post-bar/bat mitzvah component (BaDer-ekh and Darshanim). Annette's leadership and support was critical to our ongoing efforts to revision our educational program, from our initial Limmud 2010 initiative through our successful Project LO"X pilot project. She brought the popular breirot (electives) to our monthly Rosh Chodesh celebration at the religious school, supported our teachers in a myriad of ways, and took on tasks large and small, from redesigning curriculum to planning crafts projects to making sure our snacks were healthy and safe for all of our kids. To show our appreciation, a group of parents prepared a special Memory Book for Annette, with pictures and expressions of thanks from kids and adults in the community. We want to wish Annette well and thank her for all of her years of service, dedication, and care!

—*Rabbi Toba Spitzer, CDT President Allison Hausman, Lisa Schneier (VP for Education), and Erica Streit-Kaplan (Chair, Children's Education Committee)*

MAZEL TOV

To **Elaine Landes and David Felson**, and to Gabe and Alexis Landes, on the birth of Gabe and Alexis' son Isaac! We will be welcoming Isaac at Shabbat morning services on June 6.

To **Jonathan Rosenthal**, on his appointment as Executive Director of the New Economy Coalition.

To our May Bar Mitzvah, **Eli Siegel-Bernstein** and his family.

We also have many graduates to congratulate! Mazel Tov:

To **Sarah Arnold**, who is graduating from Needham High School and heading to Smith College in the fall.

To **Perry Miller**, who will be graduating from Newton North High School next month, and will be studying Industrial Design at either RIT or Carleton University next fall.

To **Mara Gibbs**, who is graduating from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and will be going to Reed College this fall.

To **Naomi Ingber**, who is graduating from the Cambridge School of Weston and plans to study History at Northeastern University.

To **Zack Pittel**, who will be graduating from Newton South HS and attending the University of Vermont in the fall.

To **Hannah Pittel**, who will be graduating from Newton North HS and attending Temple University in the fall.

To **Charlotte Robbins**, who will be graduating from Newton South High School this month, and heading to Trinity College (CT) in Fall 2015.

To **Liam Wilcox-Warren** who will be graduating from Newton North High School and attending University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Engineering in the fall.

To **Julia Faith Sklar**, who graduated from Boston University with a Masters of Science in Science Journalism. She will be starting an internship in June writing for Tech Review at MIT.

To **Avi Adler-Cohen**, who will be graduating from Union College in June and heading off to work in Portsmouth, NH as a data analyst.

To **Jo Ann Share**, who has earned a Master's Degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling from the New York Theological Seminary.

To **Nathan Reider**, who is graduating from Newton South and will be off to Oberlin College in the fall.

To **Caroline Rosa**, who is graduating from the University of Rochester.

To **Yonatan Meschede-Krasa**, who graduated summa cum laude from Brandeis University, receiving a BS in Biology and Biochemistry and a MS with high honors in Biochemistry.

To **Caleb Marcus**, who is graduating with a BS from Brandeis University, with majors in Physics and Computer Science.

TODAH RABBAH

To everyone who helped with Kiddush/B'nei Mitzvah in April and May:

Beth Green, Wendy Gedanken, Mark Paley, Laurie Goldman, Marsha Klein, Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Shirley Milgrom, Kate DeBethune, Stacey Chacker, Joel Katz, Janelle Winston, Valerie Graf, Margo Michaels, Helaine & John Carroll, Jackie & Stan Fleischman, Mark Yurkofsky, Stephanie Hackett, Gail Harris, David Reider and Stephen Zisk.

To **Hayim Kobi** for the wonderful program on the music of pre-state Israel, yasher koach!

To the students of Kitahs Dalet and Hay/Vav, for leading us in services in May—a big yasher koach to all of you.

MEMBERSHIP

Know of others interested in joining CDT? Have them contact **Melanie Adler**, our VP of Membership, at outreach@dorsheitzedek.org. No better time than today to start working toward our new goal of 300 members!

Please notify the Newsletter of life cycle events and other moments you would like to share with the community. (See page 2 for details.)

Learning

CDT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

ANNOUNCING DORSHEI TZEDEK'S 2015-2016 EDUCATION TEAM

by **Cindy Shulak-Rome & Jen Kaplan**, co-chairs of the DCL search committee

We are excited to welcome Shahar Colt and Alison Lobron as our new education team for the 2015-16 academic year.

Shahar will join Dorshei Tzedek as our new Director of Congregational Learning this summer. Entering her final year of Rabbinical School of Hebrew College this coming September, Shahar will work half time during the coming year, and her position will become full time upon her graduation in June 2016.

Shahar has extensive experience in both Jewish and secular education settings. She has a M.A. in education and has taught middle and high school in the Boston area. She has taught all ages and multiple subjects, including family education, at several religious schools. She also served as Assistant Director for Youth and Education at Temple Shir Tikvah, where she was responsible for youth and family programs as well as high school education. She co-founded a community-organizing group for the teens at the synagogue, and a middle school youth group focused on social justice.

Alison, a long time Dorshei Tzedek member, will serve as interim Education Director next year, with oversight of the day-to-day operations of the CDT Religious School. Alison brings extensive education experience to this position. She spent five years as an elementary school classroom teacher, after which she received her Master's degree from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Alison has had a special interest in Social and Emotional Learning and following her graduate work she joined Project Aspire, where she worked with public schools in Dorchester to create programs and policies to support children's social and emotional learning.

At Dorshei Tzedek, Alison has led Tot Shabbat and worked as a teacher in our religious school, teaching the Nitzanim (pre-school) class since its inception in 2008. She has also served on the CDT Children's

Education Committee (CEC), and is the current chair of the Inclusion Committee. She is passionate about creating a school environment that welcomes and nurtures all students, and helps them learn and grow as Jewish individuals.

In the coming year, Shahar and Alison will work collaboratively to sustain current programs as well as develop and implement new visions for youth and community education at Dorshei Tzedek. We are blessed to have these two very talented educators working with us and look forward to a productive and exciting year ahead.

We are grateful to DCL search committee's members Sarah Birkeland, Betsy Hinden, Hilary Marcus, Jeff Sacks and David Shumsky for their time and thoughtful contributions to the search process over the course of the past year.

THE YOUTH VOICE WEIGHS IN!

by **Tania Mireles**

Congratulations and thanks to the Kitah Hay & Vav (Lev, Kyra, Noah, Caleb, Simon, Rita, Max, Dani and Amalia) classes for participating in the recent Director of Congregational Learning (DCL) search process. They did an amazing job! Prior to the first interview the youth stayed after class one Sunday. Jodi Sugerman-Brozan and I facilitated a session with them where they thought about great learning experiences they'd had and then named what made them such great experiences. From that, they developed a rubric from which to offer feedback on their learning experiences with the DCL candidates.

In the end, they only met with one candidate, but they offered great input to the search committee. This was a great opportunity for our youth to take on leadership and participate in a process that touches them directly. It was such an honor to get to engage with Kitah Hay & Vav in this way. I hope we can take advantage of other leadership and participation opportunities for youth in the future.

PARENTING YOUR TWEEN THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Sundays, 10:15--11:45am (During religious school at JCDS)

Starting October 25, 2015

Coming to Dorshei Tzedek this fall, a 5-session program brings together caring parents and expert facilitator Judy Elkin. Parents explore compelling Jewish texts and traditions while sharing stories and ideas about raising tweens. Learn from both ancient and contemporary sources of wisdom that you are not alone in your journey through this special life stage. The session topics are:

- 1) A Jewish Conception of Parenting
- 2) A Time for Every Purpose: New Freedoms and Setting Limits
- 3) Mindful Speech
- 4) Our Jewish Family
- 5) Fostering an Ethic of Caring

Parents from all religious backgrounds welcome. For more information visit www.hebrewcollege.edu/parenting or email Parenting at parenting@hebrewcollege.edu

ADULT EDUCATION

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursdays mornings

8:45-9:30 am

60 Highland Street, Library

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness and to cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, and compassion. All are welcome, whether experienced in meditation or not. The group is facilitated by CDT members with Rabbi Toba Spitzer. On the first Thursday of each month, Karen Arnold will be leading a meditation based on that week's Torah portion (Karen is currently participating in the Jewish Mindfulness Teacher Training program with Rabbi Sheila Weinberg). No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you're able! (Please arrive no later than 8:45 am, in order not to disrupt the session once we've started). Contact **Laya Steinberg** (lasword@rcn.com) or **Carole Slipowitz** (carole@slipowitz.org) for more information.

Tikkun Olam

MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

by Abby Cohen, Organizer and
Simone Klein, CDT Religious
School Student, Kitah Zayin

On Sunday, May 10th over 60 CDT members participated in the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace! In total there were 15,000 walkers who raised \$330,00 to support the work of the Peace Institute. Team CDT raised over \$2,500, thanks, in part, to the efforts made by the students in Kitah Zayin. —Abby Cohen

The Walk For Peace is a 3.6 mile walk in support of creating a more peaceful and violence-free community. The walk raises funds for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Founded in 1996 by parents still grieving a recent loss of their son to violence, the Peace Institute has been a healing center, a training resource, and an education program for the city of Boston and surrounding communities. They bring programs to schools and community settings, support the families of victims and provide more support to families needing professional help. They also work with youth that are impacted by violence.

This was my first time walking and I really enjoyed it. It was so inspiring to be walking for a purpose, to spread awareness. It was the perfect day for it, the sun

was shining, we had blue, clear skies and there were lots of blooming flowers along the route that made the walk more enjoyable. The magnitude of it was amazing. Apparently the numbers have doubled and no matter how slow we were going there were always people behind us and in front of us. People from all religions, races and ethnicities were there. Church organizations, Temple groups, young people, older people. People had shirts with pictures of victims and words for them. There were huge signs being held, also with pictures and quotes or phrases.

Lots of citizens came out of their homes to watch, which was also a cool thing to see. Seeing their bright, and proud smiles definitely made the walk worth it.

Kitah Zayin (seventh graders at CDT's own Religious School) alone raised \$1,059. We are all so happy to have participated and I encourage you to walk next year if you didn't this year! For more about the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and the walk, visit their website at: <http://www.mothersday-walk4peace.org>. —Simone Klein

Additional Note from Abby Cohen:

This year, in addition to participating in the walk and giving money to support the work of the Peace Institute, Ora Gladstone, Linda Kramer and Abby Cohen took part in a four-

session workshop held over the course of 4 months at the Peace Institute. These sessions allowed white allies to gather and explore issues of racism and violence. We read articles and had discussions about modern racism, the effects of redlining on Boston's neighborhood development, and how we, as allies, can contribute to dismantling racism and building peace.

While these issues have been relevant for many years, the publicity of recent police brutality, protests and riots around the country provided a heart-wrenching reminder of the need to address and change cultural and institutional racism. As these events unfolded, we took the opportunity to unpack Dr. Martin Luther King's words from 47 years ago:

"It is not enough for me to stand before you tonight and condemn riots. It would be morally irresponsible for me to do that without, at the same time, condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our society. These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention. And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard" (words taken from "The Other America," that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King delivered at Grosse Pointe High School, a suburb near Detroit, in 1968).



HUGE GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) ACTION A SUCCESS

CDT participated in the latest action of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization on May 12. Governor Charlie Baker, House Speaker Bob DeLeo, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh and Attorney General Maura Healey were in attendance as 1,800 congregants from around Eastern Mass. gathered at Trinity Church in Copley Square for a rousing program of politics, music and poignant stories. CDT promised to bring 20 people and ended up with a crowd of 30!

GBIO developed 5 platform areas of action: Health Care reform, Gun Violence Prevention, Affordable Housing and Criminal Justice Reform. Our elected officials were asked for their commitments to progressive action on these issues and they responded affirmatively.

I also want to highlight efforts by Ora Gladstone and Barbara Blumenthal, in addition to Paul Hattis, in getting our contingent organized for this event. It takes a continent....

Our follow up GBIO delegate assembly is scheduled for October 8, 2015. (SAVE THE DATE) Can we send 50 CDTers? I think so!—Alan Epstein

Yasher koach to everyone who helped organize, attended, and got others to attend! I think that may have been our biggest CDT contingent ever at a GBIO action.—Rabbi Toba Spitzer

I also want to thank the organizers - I was so glad to be in a crowd of 1800 people seeking social justice, in front of our top elected officials!—Bonnie Tenneriello, Tik-kun Olam Chair

Last night was a great and inspiring event. It was wonderful to be part of it. Many thanks to Alan and to Paul who were very instrumental in working with GBIO and then with organizing

a group from CDT to attend. I encourage others to attend future events.— Louise Enoch, CDT Member

My three 11th grade students and I really enjoyed it - we had some fascinating debriefing on the T going home. Hoping it inspires them to be young activists. Thanks for the opportunity—Barry Ehrlich, Teacher and CDT Member

UPDATE ON THE DOMESTIC WORKERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

by Amy Mazur

Now that April 1 has come and gone, and the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights has become law, I wanted to provide some information* about the law itself and what it means for us as employers of domestic workers.

A “domestic worker” is anyone who is paid to perform work of a domestic nature within a household, including: housekeeping, house cleaning, home management, nanny services, caretaking, laundering, cooking, home companion services and other household services for family or guests. An “employer” is someone who employs a domestic worker who works within or about a private home.

The main provisions of the DWBR include 24 hours of rest per seven-day calendar week and an additional 48 hours of consecutive rest per calendar month. It clearly defines work time so that domestic workers who live at their workplace are paid for all hours worked and there is agreement about when they are not working. The law extends parental leave protection of eight weeks unpaid leave to domestic worker, and also repeals the exclusion of domestic workers from using the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination to enforce anti-discrimination and sexual harassment laws, and also from the anti-retaliation law. Finally, the law will include civil enforcement of protections that currently exist under criminal laws to help prevent trafficking of domestic workers.

A more extensive Checklist for Employers: Complying with the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights is available at the Domestic Workers' website: <http://tinyurl.com/obturch>.

Even if a domestic worker is in your employ for only a few hours a week

(and no contract is required), Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is proud to promote the spirit of this new law by treating all workers with dignity and respect. For more information, visit the Massachusetts Domestic Workers' website: www.massdomesticworkers.org or the New England Jewish Labor Committee.

UPCOMING JOBS NOT JAILS COALITION BILL HEARING

Tuesday, June 9, 1:00 pm

Gardner Auditorium, State House, Boston

It looks like things are beginning to happen legislatively! The Omnibus Justice Reinvestment Act, sponsored by the Jobs not Jails Coalition, has been scheduled for a hearing in the Judiciary Committee. This is the bill containing the following provisions: eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses reduce low-level felonies to misdemeanors allow terminally ill prisoners to be supervised out prison end drivers license suspensions for drug convictions

A large showing of constituents at that hearing will be useful to increase the likelihood of passage. For more information, contact Alan Epstein at ade26y@gmail.com.

FAMILY TABLE UPDATE: THANK YOU AND SUMMER PLANNING

By Ilana Mainelli

To all the students and staff who helped make the CDT Religious School Family Learning Day about local hunger issues on April 12 a success, and also to all the families who volunteered at Family Table on April 26: THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

Food Collection Continues Year-Round. Many local families still need our help to have enough food to eat. Please continue to bring your contributions of kosher and/or vegetarian soup and/or whole grain cereal, or checks (made out to JF&CS—with “Family Table” in the memo line) to our collection boxes near the Highland St. door of our sanctuary.

Volunteers Needed. We still need volunteers to sign up to bring our contributions from our boxes, at Second Church (60 Highland St) to Family Table in Waltham this summer on June 14 & July 19. You can sign up for this at: <http://tinyurl.com/deliver2FT>. There is also a link to this sign-up page in the Members' section of the CDT website.

CDT is also looking for someone (or maybe 2 people) to volunteer to be the Family Table coordinator(s) next year. I am happy to talk to you about what it entails and to train the next coordinator(s). If you would like to know more about this position, please email me at familytable@dorsheitzedek.org, or call me.

CDT Calendar

June 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</p>				<p>Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:45am to 9:30am</p> <p>Film and discussion: "Race, the Power of an Illusion (Part 3)" 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6:00pm</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Elan Katz 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
<p>Members' Meeting & Dinner 5:30pm to 8:00pm</p> <p>Softball game 10am West School, 1322 Central St, Stoughton (away)</p>				<p>Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:45am to 9:30am</p>		<p>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 60 Highland Street: Library 8:45am to 9:40am</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Tot Shabbat 60 Highland Street: Room 111 10:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Sunset Potluck and Havdallah on the Water Fisher-Gomberg home, Auburndale, MA 6:00pm to 9:00pm</p>
<p>Softball game 10 am Forte Park, 235 California St, Newton (home game)</p> <p>CDT Board Meeting 60 Highland Street: Living Room 4:00pm to 6:00pm</p> <p>Painful Hope Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p>				<p>Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:45am to 9:30am</p>		<p>Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Ben Reider 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
<p>Softball game 10 am Concord Ave Field, 365 Concord Ave, Belmont (away game)</p>				<p>Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:45am to 9:30am</p>		<p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
			JULY 1			

Kiddush Assignments

Jun 5 Erev Shabbat: Jennifer Nichols / Jennifer Sartori / Misha Dudnik / Barry Ehrlich

Jun 6 Shabbat & Bar Mitzvah of Elan Katz: Sanctuary Cleanup: Leah Diskin / Nem Hackett; Kiddush Setup: Ilana Mainelli / Alex Sugerman-Brozan / Sami O'Reilly / Stephanie Hackett / Scott Gordon; Kiddush Cleanup: Susan Bernstein / David Greenberg / Mitch Feuer / Elizabeth Roll / Robert Imperato / Kristin Butcher; Ushers: Karen Wasserman / Jodie Siegel

Jun 7 Members' Meeting: Amy Mazur —in memory of Rhoda and Marvin Mazur / Lilly Platt—in memory of Yankel and Chaike Platt / Stephen Zisk / Robert Imperato

Jun 13 Shabbat: Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein / Benita Danzing / Linette Liebling—in memory of Zelda and Joel Liebling

Jun 20 Shabbat & Bar Mitzvah of Ben Reider: Sanctuary Cleanup: Marc Steinberg; Ushers: Kristin Butcher / Leah Diskin

Jun 27 Shabbat: Kevin Hsu-Weinstein/ Allison Peiser/Phyllis Glazerman

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. When notified of your dates, please be sure to put them into your personal calendars. The whole congregation counts on your participation in kiddush and each assigned person is needed and expected to show up. Thank you!

Parents of students in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades, who generally help out with B'nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can primarily find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates.

No Fragrances, Please. So that Dorshei Tzedek events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfumes, scented oils, colognes, etc.) to all CDT events. While pleasant to some, fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Chesed

The Chesed coordinators in June are Jenny Sartori and Susan Nitkin — you can use chesed@dorsheitzedek.org to contact them.

Our congregation values chesed, acts of loving-kindness. The Chesed Committee coordinates our community's response for members who are in need of support, such as at the time of a birth or adoption, illness, death, or other significant life change. Some of the types of things we coordinate include meals, grocery shopping, and transportation for a medical appointment.

The committee encourages all members to sign up at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community> so you can respond when a Chesed request goes out. The committee would like to thank everyone who provided acts of chesed last month. We welcome new volunteers or committee members.

Contacting Rabbi Toba: Rabbi Toba Spitzer is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. To schedule an appointment, please contact her (confidentially) at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330 #2. She does not check email or voicemail on Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening) or on Mondays (her day off). For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL BE ON THE RECEIVING END...

by Ellie Goldberg

Chesed at CDT is members helping members when there is a major life event such

as the arrival of a child, death, injury, or illness.

What does the Chesed Committee do?

We use the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) website to organize members to provide (among other things): a meal, help with errands, rides.

Help make Congregation Dorshei Tzedek a more caring community!

REFUAH SH'LEMAH

We send blessings for a complete healing to **Ilana Streit** and **Mark Bronstein**.

CONDOLENCES

To **Emily Sper**, on the death of her mother, Rose Sper; may her memory be for a blessing.

Yahrzeit

This month, we are remembering David Keimowitz Crozier, son of Jessica Keimowitz and Polly Crozier, on the occasion of his 3rd yahrzeit. We will be remembering David at Shabbat morning services on June 6. We are also remembering CDT member Evelyn Felson, mother of David Felson, on the occasion of her 9th yahrzeit. We will be remembering Evelyn at Shabbat morning services on June 27. May David's and Evelyn's memories be for a blessing.

MOURNING AT CDT

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek," available on the resource table in our sanctuary and on our website under: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf>.



CDT's Chesed committee in 2012.



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested

The CDT Carbon Challenge is ON!

The CDT Climate Change Action Group invites the CDT community to join our new “Carbon Challenge campaign,” in which we as members are pledging to change our consumption habits and reduce our carbon output both individually and collectively. We have come up with a list of possible actions for you to take, called “More than Lightbulbs.” We’ve assigned each action a certain number of “Carbon Points,” which correspond roughly to how easy or difficult the action is, and the amount of impact it has--everything from adjusting your thermostat to insulating your home to switching to clean sources of electricity to getting involved in pushing for broader policy changes in the political realm.

We’re setting a congregation-wide goal of earning 350,000 Carbon Points between Shavuot and Rosh Hashanah. (350 parts per million is the level of Carbon Dioxide climate scientists say we need to get down to - we are currently at over 400). Each participating household will set its own goal for Carbon Points and pledges to take the actions it chooses from the “More than Lightbulbs” list. Making the Carbon Challenge successful will require lots of members to participate, but how much you do is entirely up to you. For more information and to sign up, go to dorsheitzedek.org/climate. If you have questions or want to join the Climate Change Action Group, please email climatechange@dorsheitzedek.org